

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

OLYMPIC COAST DISCOVERY CENTER



V O L U N T E E R N E W S L E T T E R - M A R C H 2 0 1 2

Coming Events

OCDC Volunteer Training begins April 25

We invite new and returning OCDC volunteers to join us for four weeks of fun and informative training beginning Wednesday, April 25 at 9:00 in the OCNMS classroom. Here is an overview of what's planned:

April 25 – Orientation, Diversity of life in OCNMS, and Ocean Literacy

May 2 – Maritime Heritage, Current Issues with Superintendent Carol Bernthal, and Ocean Acidification

May 5 – Tidepool Exploration led by Bob Campbell at 8:00, followed by a picnic with Feiro Marine Life Center volunteers and staff at Salt Creek County Park about 11:00.

May 9 – OCNMS research with Ed Bowlby, Patrick A'Hearn, Nancy Wright, and Liam Antrim. Come meet our research team and hear about the fascinating work they do in OCNMS.

May 16 – Review and practical application in OCDC

May 23 – Makah Cultural Center and Cape Flattery

The Olympic Coast Discovery Center opens Memorial Day weekend, and will be open daily from 10:00 to 5:00 June 1 through Labor Day. Stop by the office during training to learn from our guest speakers, meet our new volunteers, and sign up for a shift.

Training will be advertised in the newspaper, and with posters around town, but YOU are the very best recruiters. If you enjoy talking with guests in the OCDC, if you enjoy lunch speakers and field trips, please tell your friends about us and encourage them to come to training.



Tsunami Debris arrives on Washington beaches

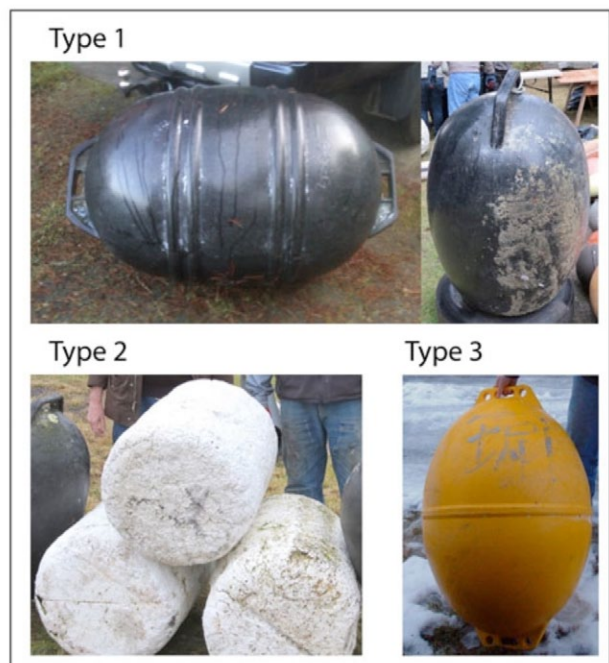
Since November OCNMS has received reports of large black or orange floats appearing on Washington beaches. Long-time beachcombers realized these were not ordinary beach trash and suspected that they might be from Japan, washed into the Pacific by the tsunami last March. Their findings agree with predictions made by Curt Ebbesmeyer and Jim Ingraham, based on a computer model that factors in wind speed as well as ocean currents to track ocean trash.

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debris for radiation and reported there was none on anything that has washed ashore to date.

If you are beachcombing either in the Sanctuary or along the Strait and see something unusual please take photos and send them in along with the name of the beach, or GPS coordinates if you have them.

You will likely receive many questions about tsunami debris from visitors this summer. We'll have photos and updated information available in the OCDC, and will offer a special brown bag lunch meeting on this topic if there is sufficient interest.

We now believe there are at least six types of tsunami debris arriving on our shores: large, black or orange floats about 3 feet long and 2 feet in diameter; white beaded Styrofoam floats of the same dimensions, either cylindrical or rectangular; smaller, orange football-shaped floats about 2 feet long and 1.5 feet in diameter; red plastic jugs typically used to hold kerosene; white or clear jugs used to hold vinegar; and round, black floats about 1 foot in diameter. Except for kerosene jugs, all the others have been found on OCNMS beaches in March.

At the Beachcombers Fun Fair in Ocean Shores earlier this month Allen Konklin of the WA Department of Health checked collected tsunami



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Ivar's 107th anniversary

Seattle Aquarium Volunteer Enrichment 2012

By Heidi Pedersen

On Friday, March 2, volunteers from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the Feiro Marine Life Center and Americorps had a phenomenal day at the Seattle Aquarium. Karen Matsumoto who works closely with Jacqueline Laverdure during ocean science teacher trainings greeted us at the aquarium with a huge smile and bounding warm energy. She provided us with numerous “protect and conserve Puget Sound environmental conservation decks.” They will be available for reference in the Olympic Coast Discovery Center.

We were then introduced to Seattle Aquarium volunteer Fred Benedetti who gave us a remarkable behind the scenes tour. Fred is knowledgeable, funny and friendly. He gave us his “business” card which has the title “World Stewardship”. To me, he is a living reminder of why we volunteer.

Fred informed us about the aquarium’s \$50,000 remodel which occurred in 2007 and the importance of it being a green construction. We then went into the “underground” and were very impressed with the clear labeling and organization of the pumps and filtering systems. We also met marine mammal researchers and viewed the food preparation area.



Group photo with Fred and Karen

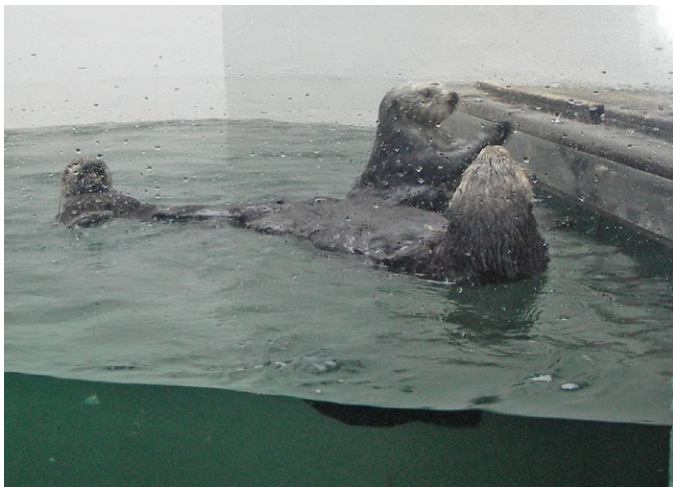
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I believe I can speak for us all with the endearing highlight of seeing six week old sea otter pup, Sekiu, be lifted up by her mother, Aniak, and placed on a wooden platform. From our perspective it looks like Aniak is offering up her pup to the humans saying, "Here, you feed her." We later learned that Aniak was trained to bring her pup to the platform for safe veterinarian examinations. Sekiu was born January 14, 2012, and is in an enclosure with her mother and grandmother. We did not get fantastic pictures of the sea otters, but you can "youtube.com" second veterinarian exam sea otter pup or go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kM3j7Ix7T7k>.



Sea otter pup Sekiu, mom Aniak, and grandma

After our behind the scenes tour with Fred, we ate a satisfying lunch at the upstairs café and spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the countless displays and exhibits ranging in theme included, but not limited to, the Giant Pacific Octopus, intertidal birds, tropical reefs, local tidepool

creatures, river otters, harbor seals, whales, and the underwater sea dome. Here are a few pictures of some of the things we saw:



Hannah McNabb, Americorp volunteer working with OCNMS, posing with oystercatchers



Decorated Warbonnet (*Chirolophis decorates*)

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The Seattle Aquarium is one of our many important partners. If you are volunteering in the OCDC, please be sure to refer to the conservation cards and education programs being offered this summer by the aquarium.



Fish and anemones

Thanks to all the volunteers who made this trip an exceptionally fun and educational day:
Christina Rookaird, Susannah Brock, Hannah Mc Nabb, Sue Griffith, and Elizabeth Clark.

